

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A packaging system for shipping and displaying products, the system comprising:

a plurality of vertically stacked trays for holding the products, each tray having an array of openings disposed therein for receiving support posts;

spacer sleeves having hollow interiors, the sleeves located over openings on each tray such that the hollow interiors communicate with the openings; and

support posts inserted inside the spacer sleeves and through the tray openings to lock the trays together;

wherein the spacer sleeves and the support posts are formed paper tubes.
2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the spacer sleeves are affixed to the trays over which they are located.
3. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein a bottommost tray is disposed on a pallet.
4. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising a top cap covering a topmost tray.
5. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the trays are formed of corrugated board and the openings are die-cut in the board.

6. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 comprising four spacer sleeves per tray.

7. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1 comprising ~~five~~ six spacer sleeves per tray.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the spacer sleeves are hollow tubes having a substantially triangular cross-sectional profile.

10. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the spacer sleeves are decorated.

11. (Original) The system of claim 1 comprising four trays.

12. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 further comprising an outer wrap wrapped around the trays, spacer sleeves and support posts.

13. (New) A packaging system for shipping and/or displaying products, the system comprising:

a bottom tray having a bottom panel;

one or more upper trays, each upper tray having a bottom panel with an array of openings disposed therein;

four or more inner support posts for inserting through the upper tray openings to hold the trays in vertical alignment, the inner support posts resting on and extending upward from the bottom tray; and

a plurality of hollow outer spacer sleeves for sliding onto the inner support posts to support the upper trays and space the trays apart.

14. (New) The packaging system of claim 13 wherein the bottom tray bottom panel is rectangular and the outer spacer sleeves have a substantially triangular cross-sectional profile for fitting snugly against the bottom tray sidewalls.

15. (New) The packaging system of claim 13 wherein the outer spacer sleeves are formed from paperboard.

16. (New) The packaging system of claim 15 wherein the inner support posts are formed from paperboard.

17. (New) The packaging system of claim 16 wherein the outer spacer sleeves and inner support posts are formed paperboard tubes.

18. (New) The packaging system of claim 13 wherein the bottom and upper trays are formed from corrugated board.

19. (New) The packaging system of claim 13 wherein the bottom tray further

comprises side panels extending upwardly from the periphery of the bottom tray bottom panel.

20. (New) The packaging system of claim 13 wherein the upper trays further comprise side panels extending perpendicularly from the upper tray bottom panel.